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### University of Montana joins ComField Project

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# NEWS

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### UM JOINS COMFIELD PROJECT

MISSOULA---

The University of Montana has joined with 42 other institutions in the Northwest to develop the specifications for a model education program to prepare elementary school teachers.

The U.S. Office of Education has awarded the Northwest consortium a \$163,000 contract for the project.

Called the ComField Project, it emphasizes development of a competency-based, field-centered systems approach to teacher preparation. The ComField Project represents an important step in bringing about a major improvement in teacher education in the State and the region.

J.F. Rummel, Dean of the UM School of Education, represents UM in the ComField consortium.

The ComField Project includes five Montana colleges and universities and the Montana State Department of Public Instruction.

Key features of the model program for preparing elementary teachers will include:

- A system to permit students to begin the program, advance and complete the curriculum at their own pace and on the basis of their performance.
- Supervised laboratory, clinical and internship experiences for students to develop their teaching competency.
- Definition of the professional education curriculum in terms of desired teaching behavior.
- Systematically designed instructional systems.

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UM JOINS PROJECT--2--

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory is coordinating the project. The laboratory, a nonprofit organization with administrative offices in Portland, is working with 800 educational, governmental and community agencies in the region to improve education.

Dr. H. Del Schalock of the Oregon Teaching Research Division is project director, and Dr. James R. Hale of Portland State College is associate director.

Three task forces will carry out the development of the model during the next six months. These task forces will develop instructional systems, management systems for operation of the program in colleges and the community, and evaluation and cost accounting systems.

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